

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DHA-02 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W  
-----110832Z 005045 /13

R 101617Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0768  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USNATO BRUSSELS 1858

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, CS, AU  
SUBJECT: LATEST AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENTS RE CHARTER 77

REF: VIENNA 0911

1. AUSTRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED THIS WEEK TO GIVE PROMINENT  
COVERAGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE IN SOVIET UNION AND EE  
COUNTRIES WITH GEATEST ATTENTION FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENTS  
RLATING TO CHARTER 77. AUSTRIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, BY WORD  
AND DEED, CONTINUE TO SET PACE OF EFFORT TO ASSIST CHARTER 77  
SIGNERS AND TO DISSUADE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT FROM CONTINUING  
ITS CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST THEM.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 9 SMALL DELEGATION FROM AUSTRIAN BRANCH OF  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO  
PRESENT TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA A  
PETITION CALLING ON CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT TO DROP  
ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHARTER 77 SIGNERS AND TO RELEASE  
THOSE BEING FORCIBLY HELD BY AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION  
WITH CAMPAIGN. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY NOW

PLANS TO WRITE TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR ON SUBJECT. PETITION, SIGNED BY ABOUT 16,500 AUSTRIAN IN VIENNA IN TEN-DAY PERIOD, CONTAINS SIGNATURES OF CHANCELLOR KRESIKY AND MAIN OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN TAUS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF OPINION-MOLDING ELITES IN ALL FIELDS OF ACTIVITY.

3. AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY PAPER ARBEITER ZEITUNG (AZ) OF FEBRUARY 10, UNDER FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "DUBCEK BREAKS SILENCE TO INDICATE HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR CHARTER 77", REPORTED THAT CONTACT MAN FROM CHARTER 77 GROUP HAD VERY RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DUBCEK WHO GAVE ORAL MESSAGE EXPRESSING HIS COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH CONTENTS OF CHARTER 77. DUBCEK REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT REFUSED TO SIGN CHARTER BUT RATHER HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING

SO BY EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY SURVEILLANCE MAINTAINED OVER HIS PERSON AND THAT TEXT OF CHARTER 77 WAS TOTALLY IN ACCORD WITH WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD EXPRESSED IN HIS LETTERS IN THE PAST. AZ ARTICLE MADE POINT THAT DUBCEK'S ORAL ENDORSEMENT OF CHARTER 77 NOW PUT TO REST ALLEGATION OF COMMUNIST PRESS IN AUSTRIA, REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT DAYS, THAT DUBCEK HAD REFUSED TO SIGN CHARTER 77.

4. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM FEBRUARY 9 IN CONNECTION WITH UNOFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT TO SWEDEN, AGAIN CRITICIZED CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME ON ITS TREATMENT OF CHARTER 77 SIGNERS. HE INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE GOC WOULD TAKE TOUGHER STANCE WITH CHARTER 77 SUPPORTERS IN VIEW OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE LATER THIS YEAR. HE PREDICTED THAT GOC WOULD EASE UP ON ITS ANTI-CHARTER 77 CAMPAIGN, POSSIBLY WITHOUT ANY EXPULSIONS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CHANCELLOR REITERATED READINESS OF AUSTRIA TO WELCOME "FRIENDS OF REFORM WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" SHOULD THEY BE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

5. AUSTRIAN TV CARRIED EVENING FEBRUARY 9, IN CONNECTION WITH REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS LISTED PARA 2

AND 3 ABOVE, FILM SHOTS OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF AMNESTY DELEGATION TO PRESENT PETITION TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR AT EMBASSY AND OF DUBCEK, FIRST IN EARLIER

ROLE AS LEADER OF PRAGUE SPRINGMOVEMENT AND MORE  
RECENTLY AS FORESTRY WORKER UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE  
IN SLOVAKIA. MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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